
"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 456

"Holy Father, please bless us."

"Holy Father,

.....Inspired also by the opening words of your Apostolic Exhortation, "the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus", the XXI General Assembly of our Society of the Catholic Apostolate chose this spiritual thought of our holy Founder, St Vincent Pallotti: "The fundamental rule of our minimal Congregation is the life of our Lord Jesus Christ".

As you have challenged the entire Church repeatedly through your teachings and life-testimony, we do believe that genuine Christian living is possible only when we have experienced Jesus, as we encounter him in flesh and blood in the Holy Gospel. Hence we pray with our holy Founder individually and as community: "May all my life be destroyed and may the life of Jesus alone be my life".



Holy Father, on behalf of all the members of our General Assembly, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for giving us this God-given opportunity to meet with you and receive your blessings for us and for our entire Society.

I wish to thank you very specially also for the personal message of solidarity and prayers of 4 July 2016, sent on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of five of our confreres in Argentina. We are sure that the blood they shed will become a source of life for our Community and the entire Church.



Holy Father, St Vincent Pallotti was a prophet of communion. He wished to see a Church where all – priests, religious and laity – will work together as authentic apostles of Jesus, with equal dignity and responsibility, always in service of the Church and the entire humanity. His spirituality and charism were rooted in his mystical experience of God as infinite love and mercy. Following the footsteps of our Founder, we comprise about 2400 members, as well as sisters and lay members, and now work in 56 countries around the world.

We ask you, Holy Father, to bless us and pray for us that we may remain always faithful to the charism and mission entrusted to us by our Founder. Our Society and the entire Pallottine Family of priests, brothers, sisters and lay people express our gratitude and admiration for your prophetic Petrine ministry, and assure our fidelity and filial devotion to you and to your precious teachings. As you often remind us, we will never fail to pray for you every day, personally and in our communities.

Holy Father, please bless us.”

**Jacob Nampudakam sac – Rector General
Rome
10.10.16**

item 457

“I greet you cordially...

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, welcome!

I am happy to receive you on the occasion of your 21st General Assembly. I greet you cordially and I thank the Superior General for his words.

I extend my greeting to all the members of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate and to all those who share the charism of Saint Vincent Pallotti. He became an illuminating beacon and inspirer in the Church. His

charism is a precious gift of the Holy Spirit, because it aroused and arouses various forms of apostolic life and spurs the faithful to commit themselves actively in evangelical witness.

Your Founder understood that to be able to live communion with God, Jesus must be at the center, “the Divine Model of the whole human race”. In this Holy Year of Mercy, I like to recall that Vincent Pallotti had the gift to recognize that Jesus is the Father’s Apostle; great in love and rich in mercy is He who fulfils His mission revealing to all the tender love and infinite mercy of the Father. This mystery of God’s paternity, which opens to each one through the work of the Son, His heart full of love and compassion, acquires a special significance in our times. Every day scenes of violence, merciless faces and hardened and desolate hearts pass before our eyes. We are in so much need of remembering that Father whose heart thinks of all and wants the salvation of every man. Mercy is “the force that conquers all, that fills the heart with love and that consoles with forgiveness”.

The reflections of your General Assembly are focused on the following words of your holy Founder: “The fundamental rule of our little Congregation is the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, to imitate Him with humility and trust with all the possible perfection in all the works of the hidden life and of the public evangelical ministry”. In the light of these valuable pointers, every member of the Pallottine Family is called to put the person of Christ and the faithful following of Him, as the foundation of his existence.



Contemplating the life of Jesus and looking at our life as pilgrims in this world with so many challenges, we perceive the necessity of a profound conversion and the urgency to revive faith in Him. Only in this way will we be able to serve our neighbor in charity! Every day we are called to renew our trust in Christ and to draw inspiration from His life to carry out our mission, because “Jesus is the first and greatest evangelizer. The primacy in any form of evangelization is always God, who has willed to call us to collaborate with Him and to stimulate us with the strength of His Spirit”.

Dear Brothers, I encourage you to continue your journey with joy and hope, committing yourselves with all your heart and all your strength, so that the charism of your Founder bears abundant fruits also in our time. He liked to repeat that the calling of the apostolate is not reserved for some, but is addressed to all, “regardless of their state, their condition, their profession, their fortune, all can take part”. The Union of the Catholic Apostolate, which is bearer of St Vincent Pallotti’s charism, offers many areas and opens new horizons to participate in the mission of the Church. Therefore, it is called to work with renewed impetus to

reawaken faith and rekindle charity, especially in the weakest segments of the population, poor spiritually and materially. In this, you are supported by the example of so many of your fellow brothers, genuine witnesses of the Gospel, who dedicated their life to the service of others. I knew them also during my pastoral service in Argentina and I have a happy memory of them.



Following in the footsteps of St Vincent Pallotti, who considered himself a prodigy of God’s mercy, you can help all those you meet in your ministry to rediscover the immense love of God in our life. He wrote: “O my Jesus, shining in you is the incomprehensible excess of your infinite love and your infinite mercy”.

I entrust you all to the protection of Mary Most Holy, whom St Vincent Pallotti venerated in a particular way as Queen of the Apostles. She, effective example of apostolic zeal and perfect charity, invites us to incessant prayer to invoke the gifts of the Holy Spirit on today’s apostles, so that her Son’s Gospel is proclaimed in every part of the world. I also entrust myself to your prayers and, while I hope for the best fruits of the works of your Assembly, I impart to you my heartfelt Apostolic Blessing”.

Francis
The Vatican
10.10.16

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you commented...

on #241